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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7368**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1496

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 12, 2013

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Rural Entrepreneurship Areas.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Zent

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
X DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill permits a rural county, with the approval of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), to designate the county as a Rural Entrepreneurship Area Development Incentives Area (READIA). The bill provides for the transfer of adjusted gross income taxes annually paid by employees working in an area for a new business, and by the new business itself, to the rural county for the development of new business opportunities in the rural county. It limits the amount that may be transferred in any year to \$500,000.

**Effective Date:** Upon passage.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Summary - Department of State Revenue, State Board of Accounts, IEDC, Treasurer of State, and State Budget Agency:* The bill's requirements are within the agencies' routine administrative functions and should be able to be implemented with no additional appropriations, assuming near customary agency staffing and resource levels.

**Additional Information - Department of State Revenue (DOR):** Before the first business day in October of each year, the DOR shall compute the amount of money to be deposited in each READIA fund.

**State Board of Accounts:** The agency shall audit each READIA fund one time before July 1, 2019 and one time between June 30, 2019 and January 1, 2024.

**Treasurer of State:** The State Treasurer's office shall establish a state READIA fund for each county with a READIA area. Money in the fund does not revert to the state General Fund at the end of the fiscal year.

*Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC):* The IEDC shall develop applications and an approval process for perspective READIAs. They should be able to implement this program with their current level of resources.

*State Budget Agency (SBA):* The SBA has final approval authority over a county's selection to be a READIA area. The SBA shall send a copy of the approval to the DOR.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** This bill allows counties with a population less than 50,000 to apply to the IEDC for an area to be designated as a READIA to serve as an incubator for start-up businesses. This bill will decrease revenue deposited in the General Fund because the Individual and Corporate Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Tax paid by employees of new business and paid by new businesses (minus any Economic Development for a Growing Economy Tax Credits awarded) within the READIA will be paid into a fund established for the READIA. The state revenue loss is capped at \$500,000 per county per year regardless of the number of READIAs in a county. The actual reduction in revenue depends on the number of READIAs established and the economic activity within each area.

According to 2010 population data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, there are 64 counties in Indiana that would qualify for a READIA. The maximum state revenue loss from this program would be \$32 M a year if all 64 counties created a READIA and the state revenue capture reached its threshold.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** If an eligible county decides to apply to the IEDC to establish a READIA, they are required to submit an economic development plan to the IEDC. The county also has to approve the terms of loans granted to new businesses. The county may have to employ an expert consultant to assist in the development of these plans and to develop the criteria for approving loans. The county would have to apply sufficient funds and resources to accomplish this initiative.

**Explanation of Local Revenues: Summary** - Each year, the amount of revenue deposited into a county READIA Fund would be the Individual and Corporate AGI Tax revenue collected from employees and businesses (minus any Economic Development for a Growing Economy Tax Credits awarded) in the READIA area, up to a maximum of \$500,000 per year. The actual revenue collected by a READIA largely depends on the success of the businesses and wages paid to employees within its boundaries.

**Additional Information:** Under this bill, counties with a population less than 50,000 may apply to the IEDC to be selected as a READI area. As part of the approval process the county has to submit a written plan for supporting entrepreneurship and the establishment of new businesses in the area. If selected by the IEDC and approved by the SBA, this designation is effective until the IEDC rescinds the designation, the county fiscal body specifies an earlier date, or January 1, 2024.

Each month the county READIA fund will receive a distribution from the state. Money deposited in the fund may only be used for a combination of the following:

- Transfer money to a revolving fund.
- Transfer money to a regional or local venture capital fund established under current law.
- Business incubator and accelerator development and operation.
- Small business support services.
- Assisting in the development of high speed Internet service within the county.

The county fiscal body would have to approve the terms of the loans. Interest payments on loans made from the revolving fund revert back to the fund. A county may not issue bonds using the fund as collateral. Two or more counties may enter into a written agreement to develop new businesses. Once an area is terminated the remaining funds revert to the state General Fund.

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of State Revenue; State Treasurer; Indiana Economic Development Corporation; State Board of Accounts; State Budget Agency.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Counties with less than 50,000 in population

**Information Sources:** LSA Income Tax Database; Global Insights Indiana County Level Forecast, June 2012.

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